

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating cancer in an individual comprising administering an Aurora kinase inhibitor and a mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor to said individual, wherein an Aurora kinase is over-expressed in the cancer cells relative to non-cancer cells.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said cancer tumour cell is resistant to said agent that inhibits mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor is a taxane.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 wherein the taxane is paclitaxel or a derivative thereof and wherein said derivative is a taxane.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the Aurora kinase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4- (4- (N benzoylamino) anilino)-6-methoxy -7- (3- (1 morpholino) propoxy) quinazoline and Hesperadin.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1[[to 4]] wherein the Aurora kinase inhibitor is an antibody molecule which specifically binds to an Aurora kinase.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1[[to 4]] wherein the Aurora kinase inhibitor is a sense or anti-sense nucleic acid molecule that inhibits the expression of an Aurora kinase.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the cancer is an epithelial cancer.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the epithelial cancer is skin, thyroid, colon, pancreas, lung, prostate, cervical, ovarian or breast cancer.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the cancer is liver, kidney or brain cancer.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of sensitising a tumour cell in an individual to an agent which inhibits mitotic spindle assembly comprising administering an Aurora kinase inhibitor to the individual.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11 wherein said tumour cell is resistant to said agent which inhibits mitotic spindle assembly.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11 wherein the mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor is a taxane.

14. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 13 wherein the taxane is paclitaxel or a derivative thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11 wherein the Aurora kinase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4- (4- (N benzoylamino) anilino) -6-methoxy -7- (3- (1 morpholino) propoxy) quinazoline and Hesperadin.
16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11 wherein the Aurora kinase inhibitor is an antibody molecule which specifically binds to an Aurora kinase.
17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 11 wherein the Aurora kinase inhibitor is a sense or anti-sense nucleic acid molecule which inhibits the expression of an Aurora kinase.
18. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an Aurora kinase inhibitor and a mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor.
19. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
20. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor is a taxane.
21. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 20 wherein the taxane is paclitaxel or a derivative thereof.
22. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the Aurora kinase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 4- (4- (N benzoylamino) anilino) -6-methoxy -7- (3- (1 morpholino) propoxy) quinazoline and Hesperadin.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of determining the resistance of a tumour cell to a mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor comprising; measuring the, expression of Aurora kinase in said tumour cell, elevated expression of Aurora kinase in said tumour cell relative to a non-tumour cell being indicative of the resistance of said tumour cell to the agent.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein the mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor is a taxane.

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 24 wherein the taxane is paclitaxel.

26. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein the expression of Aurora kinase in said cell is measured by determining the amount of Aurora kinase RNA in said cell.

27. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein the expression of Aurora kinase in said cell is measured by determining the copy number in said cell of nucleic acid that encodes Aurora kinase.

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein the expression of Aurora in said cell is measured by determining the amount of Aurora kinase polypeptide in said cell.

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23 wherein the Aurora kinase is Aurora A.

ANAND ET AL.
Appl. No. 10/563,042
Atty. Ref.: 620-406
Amendment
August 14, 2008

30. (Withdrawn) A kit for use in a method of determining the sensitivity of a tumour cell to a mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor comprising oligonucleotide primers suitable for specific amplification of an Aurora kinase nucleic acid sequence.

31. (Withdrawn) A kit for use in a method of determining the sensitivity of a tumour cell to a mitotic spindle assembly inhibitor comprising an antibody molecule which binds specifically to an Aurora kinase.

32. (Withdrawn) A kit according to claim 31 comprising a labelled secondary antibody and one or more label detection reagents.

Claims 33-51. (Cancelled)